

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 10298 071555Z

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NOAA ROCKVILLE MD

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NOAA FOR NEJOHNSON, IA.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WMO, NAOS

SUBJECT: WMO BOARD NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN STATION (NAOS)

AGREEMENT: 3RD SESSION, JULY 4-7, 1978; WRAP-UP REPORT.

1. SUMMARY: THE THIRD SESSION OF THE NAOS BOARD DEALT WITH BUDGETARY, OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS IN ITS FOUR-DAY SESSION. FOURTEEN OUT OF THE 16 MEMBERS WERE ON HAND, ONLY TUNISIA AND CUBA MISSING. MOST ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON THE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS, AND ON THE FUTURE OF THE NAOS SCHEME AFTER 1981.

2. THE WMO NAOS BOARD DEALT WITH ALL ITEMS OF AGENDA IN A RELATIVELY SMOOTH SESSION. IT ACCEPTED ACCOUNTS FOR 1977 (7,079,072 POUNDS STERLING) AND APPROVED RE-IMBURSABLE EXPENDITURES OF 7,738,465 POUNDS FOR 1979 (1978 BUDGET WAS 7,490,420 POUNDS). IT ADOPTED A NEW SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FACT THAT CUBA BECAME FULL MEMBER ON JULY 1, 1978; PERCENTAGE ALLOTTED TO CUBA IS 0.3142 PERCENT. SESSION WAS DISTURBED BY STATEMENT OF SWISS MEMBER

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 10298 071555Z

THAT SWITZERLAND ENVISAGES WITHDRAWING FROM THE AGREEMENT AT END OF 1979, DUE TO "HUGE INCREASE IN COSTS..." PRESENT SWISS ASSESSMENT IS 222,000 POUNDS. POSSIBILITY OF EARLY ENTRY OF ITALY MENTIONED, BUT OFFICIAL INFORMATION HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. GUATEMALA AND BELGIUM HAVE ENQUIRED OF POSSIBLE PERCENTAGE ASSESSMENTS, IF THEY WERE TO JOIN THE AGREEMENT.

3. THERE WAS LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF REPORT OF SMALL WORKING PARTY ON FUTURE OF THE NAOS SCHEME AFTER 1981, END OF PRESENT PERIOD OF THE AGREEMENT. ON BASIS OF ASSUMPTION THAT ONE OR TWO NEW SHIPS CAN BE BUILT (OR GREATER USE MADE OF HIRED VESSELS) COSTS WERE ESTIMATED TO BE SLIGHTLY LOWER OR ABOUT THE SAME AS UNDER PRESENT SYSTEM. MUCH ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE PROPOSED STUDY OF RELATIVE ROLE OF THE NAOS SCHEME IN AN INTEGRATED OBSERVATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AREA. THE BOARD AGREED THAT ANY DECISION CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE NAOS SYSTEM SHOULD BE TAKEN INTER ALIA ON THE FINDINGS OF THAT STUDY. IT AGREED TO SUPPORT UP TO \$15,000 AN INFORMAL PLANNING MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT, TO BE HELD EARLY IN 1979. A PROPOSAL BY THE FRG AND SPAIN THAT THE STUDY OF THE FUTURE OF THE NAOS SCHEME SHOULD CONSIDER USER CHARGES AND A FIXED CEILING MET WITH STRONG OPPOSITION FROM A NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

4. THE BOARD CONSIDERED THE PRESENT OPERATING PROCEDURES AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SHIPS UNDER THESE PROCEDURES AS SATISFACTORY. THE USSR STATION CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF OBSERVATIONS MADE, AS WELL AS IN THE HEIGHTS ATTAINED BY THE UPPER-AIR SOUNDINGS. WITH THE INTRODUCTION BY SOME OF THE SHIPS OF THE NEW NAVAID WIND-FINDING SYSTEM, PROVISION WAS MADE FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF FOUR FULL UPPER-AIR SOUNDINGS PER DAY TO THE COLLECTION

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 10298 071555Z

CENTER AT BRACKNELL (UK). A SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL URGING ALL OPERATORS TO TAKE PART IN THE UNEP/WMO MARINE ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION MONITORING RAISED SOME OPPOSITION, AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS ASKED TO MAKE A MORE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL, WITH POSSIBLE OPERATIONAL COSTS.

5. MR. B. KAMP (NETHERLANDS), WAS ELECTED FOR THE NEXT YEAR, REPLACING DR. ROY BERGGREN (SWEDEN) AS PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. THE FOURTH SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 26-29, 1979 AT THE WMO HEADQUARTERS. REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION WILL BE POUCHED TO NOAA ROCKVILLE AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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